

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – Monday, May 17, 2004

Chairman Dwyer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Chairman James Dwyer, County Board Supervisors Patricia Haukohl, Walter Kolb, Richard Manke, William Mitchell, Duane Paulson and Duane Stamsta.

Staff Present: Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legislative Policy Advisor Mark Mader, Office Services Coordinator Windy Jicha.

Also Present: Representative Dan Vrakas, Collections and Business Services Manager Sean Sander, Principal Assistant Corporation Counsel Danni Caldwell, UW-Extension Director Marcia Jante, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels, Supervisor Andy Kallin, Supervisor Rodell Singert, Supervisor Joe Griffin, Supervisor Hank Carlson, Director of Public Works Richard Bolte, Director of Administration Norm Cummings, Waukesha Freeman Reporter Dennis Shook.

Discuss Legislative Issues with Representative Dan Vrakas

Vrakas said he isn't on a committee to work on TABOR. They are coming together to come up with a workable TABOR and will be caucusing on it tomorrow. The idea came out of the concern that we can't control our costs. There are costs that all governments have whether they are local, municipal, county or state. The uncontrollable costs are labor. There were laws passed in the 1970-80s to control labor costs. In the 1970s there was some needed catching up with labor but now it is tying us in knots. He said he got into the labor issues and sees this more and more. His background is in the restaurant business. He learned that you treat your people well or they leave. He sees ways to better spend tax money without hurting anyone. There are things we could be doing to save money. TABOR and tax freezes are meat-ax approaches. We can't control the costs so we threaten to control the revenues. He hates to see people laid off because of TABOR-like proposals. He would rather see the county given the tools by the legislature to control costs.

Vrakas said he has found several communities in Waukesha County that are paying too much for family health insurance. He will soon be presenting a proposal aimed at what works. The Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) is a great system to attract workers to government jobs that don't pay as much as private sector jobs. He doesn't know why we can't have the Wisconsin Health Insurance System available to all public employees on the same state plan. There's nothing wrong with the system, it's a Cadillac plan. This could save communities huge money. The City of Waukesha was paying \$1400 per family. They would have saved \$2.4 million if they switched to the state insurance plan. If you switched all public employees over, the state could bid out the business for the best prices.

Dwyer said Waukesha County has tried to address this issue but with several different labor unions, it is difficult to switch everyone over without giving something up. Vrakas said last year he put a plan into the budget to allow that to happen. The governor vetoed the plan.

Krahn said he commends Vrakas for referring to TABOR as a "meat-ax" approach. Vrakas is addressing a side of TABOR that isn't being addressed. People are beginning to look at alternatives to TABOR that would make Wisconsin a better place to live which include educational reforms, consolidation incentives, lower health insurance costs, etc. Where is the revenue coming from and what is it being spent on? Property tax pays for health and human services and the courts systems which is not the proper use of those funds. We haven't had a tax investigative study in years. TABOR doesn't allow for that to happen. He commends Vrakas on a surgical approach.

Vrakas said what is missing is the union leaders involvement. They were invited to discuss a bill allowing organizations to contract out. If legislation mentions losing employees, it doesn't go anywhere. We are at the baby boomers surge toward retirement. There are many public employees ready to retire. As much as the

union wants to preserve every last job, we don't have the people to replace all the retirees. He wants the unions to come to the table to discuss issues.

Kolb said he hasn't seen the government try to put the clamps on state spending. The state mandates programs for the counties but doesn't provide funds to pay for it. Counties have to find a way to cover costs of mandates. When mandates come in, they need to be done in a manner so any increases in taxes are equitable. You don't want expenses at one end and revenues at the other. The state has to follow the same rules as everyone else. He wants a TABOR bill that's workable for everyone.

Manke said he thinks TABOR is a "meat ax" approach. What happens when the administration changes hands? A constitutional amendment doesn't make sense. If TABOR goes through he may save \$100 on his property taxes.

Paulson asked why is health insurance in southeastern Wisconsin is 55% higher than everywhere else? Vrakas said it is worth studying. Paulson asked if they could bring back the hospital review board? Vrakas said GE fought it tooth and nail. GE claims advances in medical diagnostics reduce medical expenses because illnesses are found earlier. If you want good health care, it is going to cost money. It is consumer driven. Vrakas says, let's have state health insurance.

Krahn said the streamline sales tax should be collected from items purchased on the Internet. This would bring in \$925 million. A bill for that is out and is expected to come back next year. Vrakas said he is for it. Our tax system has to be fair for everyone. We can do this change without hurting anyone. The biggest cost of government is people. If we can give our people the same benefits and save money, that is good.

Stamsta said he keeps hearing the public wants less taxes. The problem is that Madison keeps telling them they need lower taxes instead of telling them to look at what you get for your taxes. It is like a media campaign saying that taxes need to be reduced. Taxes could be reduced if as much effort was put into finding ways to reduce them as is being put into developing TABOR.

Haukohl said she appreciates Vrakas' comment about TABOR being a "meat-ax" approach. Vrakas said if he had to run a business at a profit, he would make adjustments to make it work. Haukohl asked what services do you want to cut? Vrakas said he wants more efficiently run services. We can't afford everything we want. He doesn't want to cut services but rather to deliver them more effectively. Vrakas doesn't think we are going to bring in additional money. Haukohl said TABOR takes flexibility away from finding ways to save money.

Mitchell said TABOR isn't stopping taxes. Everyone is worried about mandates and who is going to pay for them. He applauds the health insurance efforts by Vrakas. Vrakas said there will be TABOR meetings around the state. TABOR will be discussed in caucus and brought out for discussion. We are starting to talk about how we efficiently deliver services and save money. Mitchell asked would Milwaukee County be part of a TABOR bill? Vrakas said if we do something on the revenue side, we need to do something on the expenditure side. We need to provide tools to make this work. We could start by having new employees pay their share of their retirement fund. It wouldn't hurt anyone and would save a lot of money. We need to realize we can't get everything we want.

Discuss and Consider Tax Refund Intercept Appeals for Gary Billings and Patrick C. Lupo

Caldwell said the Lupo case needs to be further investigated due to a recent bankruptcy ruling received this morning from federal court for Lupo's wife. She needs time to further investigate how it ties into the debt

Lupo owes Waukesha County. Caldwell asked the committee to hold this item over to the next Executive Committee meeting to allow her time to further study the case.

MOTION: Kolb moved, Paulson second, to hold over the tax refund intercept appeal for Patrick C. Lupo to the next Executive Committee meeting so Caldwell can further investigate the bankruptcy issue. **Motion carried:** 7-0.

Gary Billings did not appear for the hearing. Caldwell said this debt is for a traffic ticket Billings received in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

MOTION: Manke moved, Haukohl second, to deny the tax refund intercept appeal for Gary Billings. **Motion carried:** 7-0.

Correspondence

Chairman Dwyer reviewed and distributed the list of correspondence. He said Supervisors should request copies of the listed items from Jicha.

Future Agenda Items

- Investigate the possibility of bringing back the hospital review board.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Stamsta moved, Haukohl second, to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2004 Executive Committees meeting as amended. **Motion carried:** 7-0.

Meeting Approvals

MOTION: Manke moved, Haukohl second, to approve attendance of the Executive Committee at the Waukesha County Historical Society and Museum event on May 18, 2004. **Motion carried:** 7-0.

MOTION: Haukohl moved, Stamsta second, to approve attendance of the Executive Committee at the Public Policy Forum on May 27, 2004 featuring Secretary of Transportation Frank Busalacchi. **Motion carried:** 7-0.

Discuss and Consider the Following Appointments:

159-A-001: Fred Muenkel to the Community Development Block Grant Board

MOTION: Haukohl moved, Mitchell second, to approve Appointment 159-A-001: Fred Muenkel to the Community Development Block Grant Board. **Motion carried:** 7-0.

159-A-002: Stephen W. Welch to the Community Development Block Grant Board

MOTION: Haukohl moved, Manke second, to approve Appointment 159-A-002: Stephen W. Welch to the Community Development Block Grant Board. **Motion carried:** 7-0.

159-A-003: Patricia Haukohl to the Park & Planning Commission

MOTION: Stamsta moved, Kolb second, to approve Appointment 159-A-003: Patricia Haukohl to the Park & Planning Commission. **Motion carried:** 7-0.

159-A-004: Vera Stroud to the Health & Human Services Board

MOTION: Manke moved, Paulson second, to approve Appointment 159-A-004: Vera Stroud to the Health & Human Services Board. **Motion carried:** 7-0.

Discuss and Consider the Following Community Development Block Grant Applications for UW-Extension:

Jante brought a map of the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSA) in the City of Waukesha as they were recently reconfigured from census reports. For an area to be designated a NRSA, it must have over 50% low to moderate income families. Many of the census block areas are 60-70% low-moderate incomes. The West Side Neighborhood qualifies as a NRSA and has been flagged to receive prevention work. CDBG viewed this neighborhood as a priority and asked UW-Extension to write for a grant for the neighborhood.

Paulson said people who live in the West Side area didn't appreciate reading in the newspaper that their neighborhood was crime-ridden. Most of the neighborhood doesn't have problems. There are only a few areas that are crime-ridden.

Kolb said he is disturbed because these are good areas. There are worse areas slightly beyond the designated areas. Most of the people in the area don't want this stigma. Jante said the areas as designated by poverty statistics taken from the 2000 census. They also have documentation showing the crime statistics in the area. If there's another area that qualifies and it isn't contiguous, it can't be added. CDBG asked UW-Extension to come in and review the West Side area for a NRSA. With the release of the 2000 census information and crime data for the area, it qualifies for a NRSA. The crime has become more diverse and transient and there are more youth crimes. There was a lot of turnover in the area with families moving out. The schools had fewer volunteers, more vandalism and more requests for lower cost/free lunches. All of these are indicators of an increase in the number of lower income families in the area.

Paulson said if this designation is by income, you should be able to include the whole area in the NRSA. He is upset about the designation of the area. He has been supportive of the programs but he didn't like the way this came out at a public meeting. It has upset many of his constituents.

Kolb asked, do you feel that this will stigmatize the areas? Jante said she hasn't found that it does. With the NRSA status we have generated \$1.3 million in programming for after school and violence prevention programs. Kolb said sometimes when you bring this stuff in you create more problems. Jante said they had a meeting at the library regarding this issue. The mayor of the City of Waukesha brought in people who had done studies in these areas and found the housing costs have not gone down due to the label. Some houses have increased in value. Kolb said if he were renting, he wouldn't rent in an area like Haertel Fields because of the stigma. Jante said they have worked with the landlords and the landlords feel there is a better sense of community due to these programs and rents are better paid on time.

Haukohl said she wants to see more specifics on program outcomes. HUD must have expectations of program outcomes such as truancy rates, crime statistics, neighborhood improvements, etc. She wants to see more facts in the grant applications. Jante said that is one of their goals. Until recently, a system wasn't in place in the City of Waukesha for them to track crime statistics. Jan Wilberg has been working with the City of Waukesha to track statistics. UW-Extension will use the statistics to show what is working and what is not. Also, with limited funding, it is hard to do everything we want to do and be everything everyone wants them to be. UW-Extension doesn't work directly with HUD. UW-Extension works directly with CDBG. CDBG sends information and statistics to HUD as required.

Haertel Field NRSA and Phoenix Heights NRSA - Jante said both the Haertel Field and Phoenix Heights grants build off what we have been done in the past. The programs are deliberately planned to go along with the goals set by the residents of the neighborhoods. They are working on a neighborhood beautification and identification plan.

West Side NRSA – Jante said page two of the grant lists the number of low to moderate income families living in the area. This grant is for 2005 program money. The businesses, hospital and residents will get together to look at strengths, weaknesses, issues and goals for the area. The NRSA status will be used to help bring more funding into the area. A part-time employee will be hired address the issues in the neighborhood.

Mitchell said the leadership in these areas needs to bring the neighborhoods together.

Jante said the West Side NRSA has been submitted to both the county and city CDBGs. They want to work together on a joint plan. Waukesha Memorial Hospital contacted the city CDBG and asked about efforts around the hospital because they are interested in joining a partnership to improve the area. Staff from the city CDBG and hospital have met several times to discuss what has worked in other cities to plan and set goals for a partnership.

Neighborhood Beautification and Identification Project/ Haertel Field and Phoenix Heights- Jante said this is the third year of this program supported 100% by the City of Waukesha CDBG. The program involves neighborhood revitalizations through cosmetic improvements such as park benches, banners, etc. UW-Extension has been working with the city on this program.

Medina Project – Jante said this is program was developed by Oscar Medina. It started as just a gym and then it was discovered that a lot of families were comfortable going to the gym. A homework club was started with four donated computers. The club is now held three times per week with tutoring by Carroll College students. After the classes are done, the kids can hang out at the gym. They also provide programming for parents to get them involved. Oscar Medina is applying for this grant and asked UW-Extension to be the subcontractor of the educational component. Kids who attend the programs at Medina's Gym do not attend La Casa so it isn't a duplication of efforts. Paulson and Mitchell both commented that they had heard many positive comments about the Medina Gym and its programs. Jante said families feel safe attending programs there.

Waukesha County Farmers' Market Project- Jante said this grant application is for the continuation of the Farmers' Market Education Project. A staff person goes to the Brookfield and Waukesha farmers' markets, sets up an educational display about the program, collects leftover and donated produce from vendors and consumers and delivers the produce to food pantries. The biggest problem with the program is that the staff person doesn't have a car large enough to take all the produce to the food pantries in one trip.

Village of Sussex: Community Planning Project – Jante said this grant is for the continuation of the project at the Stonegate Apartments in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department and the Village of Sussex. In 2002-2003 police calls to the apartments went down 50%. They are currently gathering statistics for 2003-2004. This project has worked very well for many reasons such as a supportive apartment manager, Sheriff's Department crime prevention programs, resident involvement in planning, the gardening project, etc.

2003 Year-End Budget Status Report for UW-Extension

Daniels reported that UW-Extension was under budget in by \$36,900 in 2003 due to expenditures being \$24,300 lower than budgeted and revenues \$12,500 over budget. Personnel costs are \$11,400 below budget mostly due to a Clerk Typist II position being vacant for more than five months. Interdepartmental charges are \$12,900 less than the modified budget due to copy and print charges under spent by nearly \$6,900 and variable telephone charges by \$3,600 mostly as a result of increased email and use of the University of Wisconsin WISLINE. In 2003, they started sending out the 4H newsletter via email that helped provide savings. In the 2004 adopted budget, copy, printing and variable telephone charges are reduced by \$8,650. The department is focusing more on grant related activities that resulted in revenue of \$12,500 above budget.

The additional funds were due to increased grant reimbursements because of timing issues and the delayed implementation of prior year grants which are offset by fewer charges for service resulting from a change in program emphasis.

Discuss and Consider Resolution 159-R-002: Support Legislation that Would Require the State Legislature to be Subject to the Same “Open Meetings” Laws & Regulations which Local Governments in Wisconsin Must Abide by Under Current Law

MOTION: Haukohl moved, Manke second, to approve Resolution 159-R-002: Support Legislation that Would Require the State Legislature to be Subject to the Same “Open Meetings” Laws & Regulations which Local Governments in Wisconsin Must Abide by Under Current Law.

Haukohl said she supports this resolution. She thought it was arrogant when state legislators had a meeting and called it a “family meeting.” They think it’s their right to meet the way they do when they discuss legislation. It is insulting to say that people should hear the discussions and then they do not allow citizens, elected officials and newspapers in to hear the discussions. It is good policy to keep legislative discussions open for everyone.

Paulson said this is good public policy. Mitchell said as a political party they have the right to get together and plan but when it comes to legislation, it is not good to conduct business out of the public eye.

Krahn said he will see to it that when the resolution passes, it will be shared with other counties and WCA. Esler said they need to define their rules on what is a political caucus. Presently the rules exclude state employees from working on political matters, so staff should not be present for political discussions. This is a broad resolution that addresses exemptions.

ON THE MOTION: Motion carried: 7-0.

WCA Report

Dwyer said the last WCA meeting was on May 14 in Racine. It was the first meeting of the new board which was reformed by district elections prior to the meeting. At the meeting, the election for secretary/treasurer was held and Dwyer was elected to the position for the next two years. Rich Nyklewicz, Milwaukee County, was elected the NACo representative. The board discussed the following issues: the veto of bill on the size of county boards, the funding sources for invasive aquatic species, staff reports and updates, etc. The president appointed a committee to work with Charity Eleson of the Wisconsin Counsel on Children and Families to determine if there is need for an updated survey on Health and Human Services budgets.

Dwyer said he recently attended a joint Executive Committee meeting of the Workforce Development Board. At the meeting the program budget was discussed. They received \$512K more than budgeted.

Standing Committee Reports

Public Works – Manke said the committee discussed what to do with a house at Northview that has a mold problem. They also discussed the demolition of Northview. The bids have come in under budget so the project is expected to come in as budgeted.

Health and Human Services – Stamsta said the committee went on a tour of the Mental Health Center and heard a 12-month report on insurance costs.

Judiciary – Mitchell said Sheriff Trawicki and Evenson gave departmental overviews. The committee dealt with an ordinance that focuses on how to spend confiscated drug money. It was a positive meeting with lots of good questions from the committee members.

Personnel – Paulson said the committee will be voting on the ordinance dealing with pay for the Clerk of Juvenile Court. The county is in mediation with the AFSCME unit. Soon the committee will be dealing with the issue of the computer coordinator position in the District Attorney's office that is scheduled to be abolished 30 days after PROTECT is installed. Finally, the county will be in two hearings for cases against the county for prohibitive and unfair labor practices.

Finance – Haukohl said the committee dealt with an ordinance and heard reports on the first quarter investments and year-end special revenues. At the next meeting, the committee will discuss the issue of the Clerk of Juvenile Court.

Land Use – Kolb said they discussed the ice rink issue at the last meeting. Tomorrow they will discuss the audit of Environmental Health Division and hear an educational presentation on Parks and Land Use.

Motion to Adjourn

MOTION: Stamsta moved, Haukohl second, to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m. **Motion carried: 7-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Kolb
Secretary